

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-80. (Cancelled)

81. (Currently Amended) A method for vision correction of an eye having a corneal epithelium and a Bowman's membrane disposed under the corneal epithelium, the method comprising:

separating the corneal epithelium from the Bowman's membrane to form an epithelial cell layer separated from the Bowman's membrane and a pocket extending between the epithelial cell layer and the Bowman's membrane, the epithelial cell layer having a periphery substantially attached to the Bowman's membrane to fix a lens to the eye; and

inserting the a lens into the a pocket created, without creating an epithelial flap, between the epithelial cell layer a corneal epithelium of an eye and the Bowman's membrane of the eye, wherein such that the lens is substantially fixed secured to the eye with the epithelial cell layer an adhesive.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 81, further comprising forming an incision in the epithelium to create the pocket.

83. (Original) The method of claim 82, wherein the step of forming an incision includes forming an incision on an approximate nasal portion, a temporal portion, a superior portion, and/or inferior portion of the epithelium.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 82, wherein the step of forming an incision includes forming an incision on an approximate medial portion of the

epithelium to form a first pocket and a second pocket, each pocket sized to accommodate a portion of the lens.

85. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, further comprising deforming the lens prior to the inserting step.

86. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, further comprising removing the lens from the eye, and inserting another vision correcting lens into the pocket.

87-88. **(Cancelled)**

89. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, wherein the lens comprises a synthetic material.

90. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 81, wherein the lens comprises a synthetic polymeric material.

91. **(Canceled)**

92. **(Original)** The method of claim 81, further comprising forming a plurality of incisions in the epithelium.

93. **(Cancelled)**

94. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, wherein the inserting step occurs substantially without damaging Bowman's membrane.

95. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, wherein the inserting step occurs substantially without damaging a portion of a stroma of the cornea of the eye.

96. **(Original)** The method of claim 81, further comprising administering a healing agent to the eye in an amount effective to promote healing of the epithelium.

97. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 81, further comprising ~~wherein the inserting step comprises lifting a portion of the epithelium from the cornea,~~ forming an incision in the epithelium, and passing the lens through the incision.

98. **(Original)** The method of claim 97, wherein the epithelium is lifted using a vacuum.

99. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 97, wherein the epithelium is lifted by delivering a fluid beneath the epithelium.

100. **(Original)** The method of claim 81, further comprising applying an effective amount of an epithelium preserving agent to the epithelium.

101. **(Original)** The method of claim 100, wherein the epithelium preserving agent includes a gel.

102. **(Original)** The method of claim 100 wherein the epithelium preserving agent comprises a component selected from the group consisting of water soluble polymeric materials, water swellable polymeric materials and mixtures thereof.

103. **(Original)** The method of claim 100, wherein the epithelium preserving agent includes at least one cellulosic component.

104. **(Original)** The method of claim 103, wherein the epithelium preserving agent includes hydroxymethylcellulose.

105. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, further comprising creating the pocket using a sharp blade to slice through the epithelium.

106. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, further comprising creating the pocket using a blunt instrument to separate the epithelium substantially without slicing the epithelium.

107. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, wherein the creating step comprises using a microkeratome.

108. **(Original)** The method of claim 106, wherein the blunt instrument is a spatula or a wire.

109-111. **(Cancelled)**

112. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 99, wherein the fluid includes sodium chloride or other tonicity agent.

113. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 99, wherein the fluid is a hypertonic aqueous liquid.

114-120. **(Cancelled)**

121. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 81, further comprising:
applying a liquid to the corneal epithelium, the liquid being effective in loosening the epithelium substantially without killing epithelial cells;
treating the epithelium to provide or maintain the epithelium in a moisturized state;

wherein the epithelial cell layer is separated by raising a portion of the loosened, moisturized epithelium from ~~the Bowman's membrane~~ a surface of a cornea of an eye located below the epithelium; and

~~separating the raised portion of the epithelium from the surface of the cornea;~~
forming one or more incisions in the raised portion of the epithelium to accommodate the lens.

122. **(Original)** The method of claim 121, wherein the steps occur sequentially.

123. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 121, further comprising, prior to the forming step, delivering a substance beneath the raised portion of the corneal epithelium to maintain a spaced apart relationship between the epithelium and Bowman's membrane.

124. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 121, wherein the liquid that is applied includes sodium chloride or other tonicity agent.

125. **(Original)** The method of claim 121 wherein the liquid that is applied is a hypertonic aqueous liquid.

126. **(Original)** The method of claim 121, further comprising scoring a portion of the epithelium to create an epithelial defect prior to applying the liquid.

127. **(Original)** The method of claim 121, wherein the treating step comprises applying a gel to the epithelium.

128. **(Original)** The method of claim 127, wherein the gel- containing composition comprises a component selected from the group consisting of water soluble polymeric materials, water swellable polymeric materials and mixtures thereof.

129. **(Original)** The method of claim 127, wherein the gel- containing composition comprises at least one cellulosic component.

130. **(Original)** The method of claim 129 wherein the gel-containing composition comprises hydroxymethylcellulose.

131. **(Cancelled)**

132. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 121, wherein the step of separating the epithelium from the Bowman's membrane surface of the cornea includes using a blunt dissection apparatus.

133. **(Cancelled)**

134. **(Original)** The method of claim 121, wherein the substance that is delivered to beneath the raised portion of the epithelium is a gel-containing composition.

135. **(Original)** The method of claim 134, wherein the gel- containing composition comprises a component selected from the group consisting of water soluble polymeric materials, water swellable polymeric materials and mixtures thereof.

136. **(Original)** The method of claim 134, wherein the gel- containing composition comprises a cellulosic component.

137. **(Original)** The method of claim 134, wherein the gel- containing composition includes hydroxymethylcellulose.

138. – 139. **(Cancelled)**

140. **(Original)** The method of claim 121, wherein the forming step comprises forming a plurality of incisions in the raised portion of the epithelium.

141 - 149. **(Cancelled)**

150. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, further comprising administering a moisturizer to the epithelium effective in providing and/or maintaining the epithelium in a moisturized state.

151 - 159. **(Cancelled)**

160. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 81, further comprising:
applying a liquid to the corneal epithelium, the liquid being effective in loosening the epithelium substantially without killing epithelial cells;

wherein the epithelial cell layer is separated by raising a portion of the loosened epithelium from the Bowman's membrane ~~a surface of a cornea of an eye~~ located below the epithelium;

~~separating the raised portion of the epithelium from the surface of the cornea;~~

delivering a substance beneath the raised portion of the epithelium to maintain a spaced apart relationship between the epithelium and the surface of the cornea;

forming one or more elongated incisions in the raised portion of the epithelium to accommodate the lens.

161. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 160, wherein the liquid that is applied includes sodium chloride or other tonicity agent.

162. **(Original)** The method of claim 160, wherein the liquid that is applied is a hypertonic aqueous liquid.

163. **(Original)** The method of claim 160, further comprising scoring a portion of the epithelium to create an epithelial defect prior to applying the liquid.

164. **(Original)** The method of claim 160, wherein the step of raising a portion of the epithelium includes using a vacuum.

165. **(Original)** The method of claim 160, wherein the step of separating the epithelium from the surface of the cornea includes using a blunt dissection apparatus.

166. **(Original)** The method of claim 165, wherein the blunt dissection apparatus comprises a spatula or a wire.

167. **(Original)** The method of claim 160, wherein the substance that is delivered to beneath the raised portion of the epithelium is a gel-containing composition.

168. **(Original)** The method of claim 167, wherein the gel- containing composition comprises a component selected from the group consisting of water soluble polymeric materials, water swellable polymeric materials and mixtures thereof.

169. **(Original)** The method of claim 167, wherein the gel- containing composition comprises at least one cellulosic component.

170. **(Original)** The method of claim 169, wherein the gel-containing composition includes hydroxymethylcellulose.

171. **(Original)** The method of claim 160, wherein the one or more incisions are formed using a microkeratome.

172. **(Cancelled)**

173. **(Original)** The method of claim 160, wherein the forming step comprises forming a plurality of incisions in the raised portion of the epithelium.

174-176. **(Cancelled)**

177. **(Original)** The method of claim 160, further comprising applying a healing agent to the epithelium at the one or more incisions.

178. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 81, further comprising applying an aqueous fluid to the eye.

179. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 178, wherein the aqueous fluid is selected from the group consisting of water and saline.

180. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 178, further comprising cooling the corneal epithelium.

181. **(Cancelled)**

182. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 81, wherein the lens is secuted to the Bowman's membrane with an adhesive comprising is a biodegradable glue.

183. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, wherein the lens comprises a cellular attachment element.

184. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, wherein the lens comprises an agent selected from the group consisting of growth factors, extracellular matrix proteins, fragments thereof, and combinations thereof.

185. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, wherein the lens comprises collagen.

186. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, wherein the lens comprises recombinant collagen.

187. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 81, wherein the lens comprises collagen and a synthetic polymeric material.

188. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, wherein the lens is free of donor corneal tissue.

189. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 81, wherein the lens comprises collagen Type I.

190. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 81, wherein the lens comprises collagen other than collagen Type I.

191. **(Canceled).**

192. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 121 ~~191~~, wherein the forming step comprises applying a fluid to the corneal epithelium.

193. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 121 ~~191~~, wherein the forming step comprises applying a chemical to the corneal epithelium.

194. **(Currently Amended)** A method for vision correction of an eye having a corneal epithelium and a Bowman's membrane disposed under the corneal epithelium, the method comprising:

cooling the a corneal epithelium of an eye; and
separating the corneal epithelium from the Bowman's membrane to form an epithelial cell layer separated from the Bowman's membrane and a pocket extending between the epithelial cell layer and the Bowman's membrane, the epithelial cell layer having a periphery substantially attached to the Bowman's membrane to fix a lens to the eye with the corneal epithelial layer; and

inserting the a lens into the a pocket created, without creating an epithelial flap, between the epithelial cell layer the corneal epithelium and the Bowman's membrane of the eye, wherein such that the lens is substantially fixed secured to the eye with the epithelial cell layer. an adhesive.

195. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 194, wherein the cooling is effective in protecting corneal epithelial cells of the corneal epithelium from cellular injury resulting from creation of the pocket.

196. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 194, wherein the pocket is created using a separator, and the separator is cooled to cool the corneal epithelium.

197. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 194, further comprising applying an aqueous liquid to the eye.

198. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 197, wherein the aqueous liquid is selected from the group consisting of water and saline.

199. **(Cancelled)**

200. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 194, wherein the lense is secured to the Bowman's membrane with an adhesive comprising is a biodegradable glue.

201. **(Canceled).**

202. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 194, wherein the lens comprises collagen.

203. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 194, wherein the lens comprises recombinant collagen.

204. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 194, wherein the lens comprises a synthetic polymeric material.

205. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 194, wherein the lens comprises collagen and a synthetic polymeric material.

206. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 194, wherein the lens is free of donor corneal tissue.

207. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 194, wherein the lens comprises collagen Type I.

208. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 194, wherein the lens comprises collagen other than collagen Type I.

209. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 194, wherein the lens comprises a cellular attachment element.

210. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 194, wherein the lens comprises an agent selected from the group consisting of growth factors, extracellular matrix proteins, fragments thereof, and combinations thereof.

211. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 194, further comprising creating the pocket using a microkeratome.

212. **(Currently Amended)** A method for vision correction of an eye having a corneal epithelium and a Bowman's membrane disposed under the corneal epithelium, the method comprising:

separating the corneal epithelium from the Bowman's membrane to form an epithelial cell layer separated from the Bowman's membrane and a pocket extending between the epithelial cell layer and the Bowman's membrane, the epithelial cell layer having a periphery substantially attached to the Bowman's membrane to fix a lens to the eye with the corneal epithelial layer;

inserting the a lens into the a pocket created, without creating an epithelial flap, between the epithelial cell layer a corneal epithelium of an eye and the Bowman's membrane of the eye, wherein such that the lens is substantially fixed secured to the eye with the epithelial cell layer an adhesive

applying an effective amount of an epithelium preserving agent to the epithelium, wherein the epithelium preserving agent includes at least one cellulosic component.

213. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 212, wherein the epithelium preserving agent includes hydroxymethylcellulose.

214. **(Currently Amended)** A method for vision correction of an eye having a corneal epithelium and a Bowman's membrane disposed under the corneal epithelium, the method, comprising:

applying a liquid to a the corneal epithelium of the an eye, the liquid being effective in loosening the epithelium substantially without killing epithelial cells;

treating the epithelium to provide or maintain the epithelium in a moisturized state, wherein the treating step comprises applying a gel containing composition to the epithelium;

raising a portion of the loosened, moisturized epithelium to separate the portion of the corneal epithelium from the Bowman's membrane to form an epithelial cell layer separated from the Bowman's membrane and a pocket, the pocket extending between the epithelial cell layer and the Bowman's membrane, the epithelial cell layer having a periphery substantially attached to the Bowman's membrane to fix a lens to the eye;

~~raising a portion of the loosened, moisturized epithelium from Bowman's membrane of the eye;~~

~~separating the raised portion of the epithelium from the Bowman's membrane;~~

forming one or more incisions in the raised portion of the epithelium to access the
~~create a pocket, without creating an epithelial flap,~~ between the corneal epithelium and Bowman's membrane; and

inserting a lens into the pocket through the one or more incisions such that the lens is substantially fixed to the eye with the epithelial cell layer.

215. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 214, wherein the gel-containing composition comprises a component selected from the group consisting of water soluble polymeric materials, water swellable polymeric materials and mixtures thereof.

216. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 214, wherein the gel-containing composition comprises at least one cellulosic component.

217. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 216, wherein the gel-containing composition comprises hydroxymethylcellulose.

218. **(Currently Amended)** A method for vision correction of an eye having a corneal epithelium and a Bowman's membrane disposed under the corneal epithelium, the method comprising:

applying a liquid to a corneal epithelium of an eye, the liquid being effective in loosening the epithelium substantially without killing epithelial cells;

raising a portion of the loosened, moisturized epithelium to separate the portion of the corneal epithelium from the Bowman's membrane to form an epithelial cell layer separated from the Bowman's membrane and a pocket, the pocket extending between the epithelial cell layer and the Bowman's membrane, the epithelial cell layer having a periphery substantially attached to the Bowman's membrane to fix a lens to the eye;

~~raising a portion of the loosened epithelium from Bowman's membrane of the eye;~~

~~separating the raised portion of the epithelium from Bowman's membrane;~~

delivering, a gel-containing composition beneath the raised portion of the epithelium to maintain a spaced apart relationship between the epithelium and the Bowman's membrane surface of the cornea;

forming one or more elongated incisions in the raised portion of the epithelium to access the ~~create a pocket, without creating an epithelial flap,~~ between the corneal epithelium and Bowman's membrane, ~~without creating an epithelial flap;~~ and

inserting a lens into the pocket through the one or more incisions such that the lens is substantially fixed to the eye with the epithelial cell layer.

219. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 218, wherein the gel-containing composition comprises a component selected from the group consisting of water soluble polymeric materials, water swellable polymeric materials and mixtures thereof.

220. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 218, wherein the gel-containing composition comprises at least one cellulosic component.

221. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 220, wherein the gel-containing composition includes hydroxymethylcellulose.

222. (New) The method of claim 81 wherein the epithelial cell layer is attached to the Bowman's membrane along at least about one half of the periphery of the cell layer.

223. (New) The method of claim 222 wherein the epithelial cell layer is attached to the Bowman's membrane along at least about three fourths of the periphery of the cell layer.

224. (New) The method of claim 81 wherein the lens is secured to the Bowman's membrane.

225. (New) The method of claim 224 wherein the lens is secured to the Bowman's membrane with an adhesive.

226. (New) The method of claim 81 further comprising forming an incision in the epithelium and wherein the lens is inserted into the pocket through the incision.

227 (New) The method of claim 226 wherein the incision comprises an incision size and the pocket comprises a pocket size, and wherein the incision size is less than the pocket size.

228 (New) The method of claim 227 wherein the lens is deformed to fit through the incision when the lens is inserted into the pocket and wherein the lens is at least one of folded or rolled to deform the lens to fit through the incision.

229. (New) The method of claim 81 wherein the lens comprises an edge configured to promote epithelial cell migration over the edge of the lens.

230. (New) The method of claim 229 wherein the edge comprise a thickness less than about 30 micrometers to promote epithelial cell migration over the edge of the lens.

231. **(New)** The method of claim 229 wherein the lens comprises an anterior surface and a posterior surface, the edge comprising a rounded portion of the anterior surface and an apex along the posterior surface to promote the epithelial cell migration.

232. **(New)** The method of claim 81 wherein the lens is configured to correct astigmatism of the eye and wherein the lens is held in a fixed position by the epithelium to maintain an orientation of the lens on the eye.

233. **(New)** The method of claim 81 wherein the lens is configured to correct aberration of the eye and wherein the lens is held in a fixed position by the epithelium to maintain an orientation of the lens on the eye.

234. **(New)** The method of claim 233 wherein the aberration comprises an asymmetrical higher-order wavefront aberration and wherein the lens is configured to maintain a desired orientation to correct the higher-order asymmetrical wavefront aberration.

235. **(New)** The method of claim 81 wherein the lens is configured to correct presbyopia of the eye and wherein the lens is held in a fixed position by the epithelium to maintain correct the presbyopia of the eye.